



# CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 21-186

## RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO AMEND ITS RULES TO REQUIRE COMMERCIAL SURFING INSTRUCTION PERMITS TO BE SITE SPECIFIC, AND TO INCREASE ENFORCEMENT OF COMMERCIAL SURFING ACTIVITY AT CITY BEACH PARKS.

WHEREAS, City and County of Honolulu ("City") parks offer residents space for rest, recreation, and leisure, increasing the quality of life for the people of Oahu; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR") operates and maintains City parks and recreational facilities, which are extremely popular with visitors and residents alike; and

WHEREAS, commercial activities in most City parks may be permitted as long as the activities are consistent with the use of the park, subject to reasonable limitations in order to maintain the park's primary purpose as a space for public recreation; and

WHEREAS, the DPR permits commercial surfing instruction at certain City beach parks and beach right-of-ways, including multiple park locations on the North Shore; and

WHEREAS, the DPR's administrative rules regulating permits for commercial surfing instruction at City beach parks limit the number of students to five per instructor and permittees may only conduct one class at any one time at one of the approved beach parks; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for a commercial surfing instruction permit, permittees must meet certain requirements, including the possession of valid insurance, a license to conduct business in the State of Hawaii, and a certificate in life safety training; and

WHEREAS, when requested, permittees must present their permit to any authorized DPR representative or to any police officer; and

WHEREAS, with the return of tourism to Hawaii, there has been a massive increase in commercial activity at North Shore beaches that has significantly and negatively affected marine life and the community overall; and

WHEREAS, with the increase in visitors to the North Shore, and consequent increase in commercial activity at North Shore beaches, overcrowding concerns could be addressed by reducing the number of permitted activities at any one location; and



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WHEREAS, the City Council is aware of reports that some individuals are conducting commercial surfing instructions at City beach parks in violation of their permits, including conducting multiple lessons at City beach parks at the same time; and

WHEREAS, the DPR has had difficulty enforcing its rules regarding commercial surfing instructions at City beach parks, in part because the permits are not limited to a specific area, making it difficult to determine where a permittee is conducting business at any given time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Department of Parks and Recreation is requested to amend its rules to require commercial surfing instruction permits to be site specific, and establish a policy on the total number of permits allowed per site to ensure that no single site is overused; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Parks and Recreation is requested to increase enforcement of its rules on commercial surfing instructions and to put in place measures to ensure that the use of commercial surfing instruction permits at City beach parks and right-of-ways is legitimate; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Chief of Police.

INTRODUCED BY:

Heidi Tsunoyoshi

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

AUG 18 2021

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers